

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project  
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani  
Janet Bramley

DATE: December 3, 1999

RE: CRT Clients in Trouble with the Law: January – June 1999

The rate at which consumers of mental health services get into trouble with the law is increasingly recognized as an important indicator of mental health program performance. Part of that interest grows out of a concern that the implementation of managed care could lead to increased criminal justice involvement by consumers (or former consumers) of mental health services<sup>1</sup>. For that reason, criminal justice involvement by clients of Vermont's community programs for people with severe and persistent mental illness (CRT Programs) is among the indicators in the "Early Warning Monitoring System". This system was developed in collaboration with HCFA consultant Howard Dichter for evaluating the impact of Vermont's change to a case rate reimbursement system. This managed care reimbursement system went into effect on July 1, 1999.

The attached pages provide the results of our first month by month analysis of the rate at which CRT clients get into trouble with the law. The period under examination (January through June 1999) immediately precedes the implementation of the new reimbursement system. This time period (and earlier time periods) will be used for comparison to similar rates for the period of managed care. We are sharing the results of this analysis with you at this time to solicit your comments. We will be especially interested in your thoughts on the quality of the data being used, the appropriateness of the analysis, and the usefulness of the report format.

Two data sets were used for this analysis. Information on clients served by CRT programs during the period under examination came from Monthly Service Reports provided by community service providers to the Department of Developmental and Mental Health Services. In conformity to recently implemented CRT eligibility criteria,

active CRT clients for this analysis include all clients who were assigned to the CRT program and had received at least one service from the CRT program during the month under examination or during one of the previous two months. The active CRT caseload for January, for instance, includes all CRT clients who received at least one service from their CRT program during November, December, or January.

The District Court Filings database maintained by the Vermont Center for Justice Research provided basic information on all individuals who were charged with a crime in Vermont during the period under examination. Because the mental and criminal justice data sets do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to measure the number of people who were represented in both data sets. The rate at which CRT clients got into trouble with the law was calculated for each month at each CRT program by measuring the overlap between a data set that included all active CRT clients and a data set that included all criminal charges for residents of the service area.

As you will see, the rate at which active CRT clients get into trouble with the law on a month to month basis is very low. The average monthly rate for January through June 1999 ranged from a high of 1.8%(±) at Howard to lows of 0.2%(±) at Clara Martin and 0.3%(±) at Northwest. There was substantial month to month variation in the rate of criminal justice involvement of CRT clients for every provider.

The number of CRT clients who were charged with a crime each month varied from 14(±) during the month of April to 30(±) during the month of June. On average, 24(±) CRT clients were charge with a crime each month during this period.

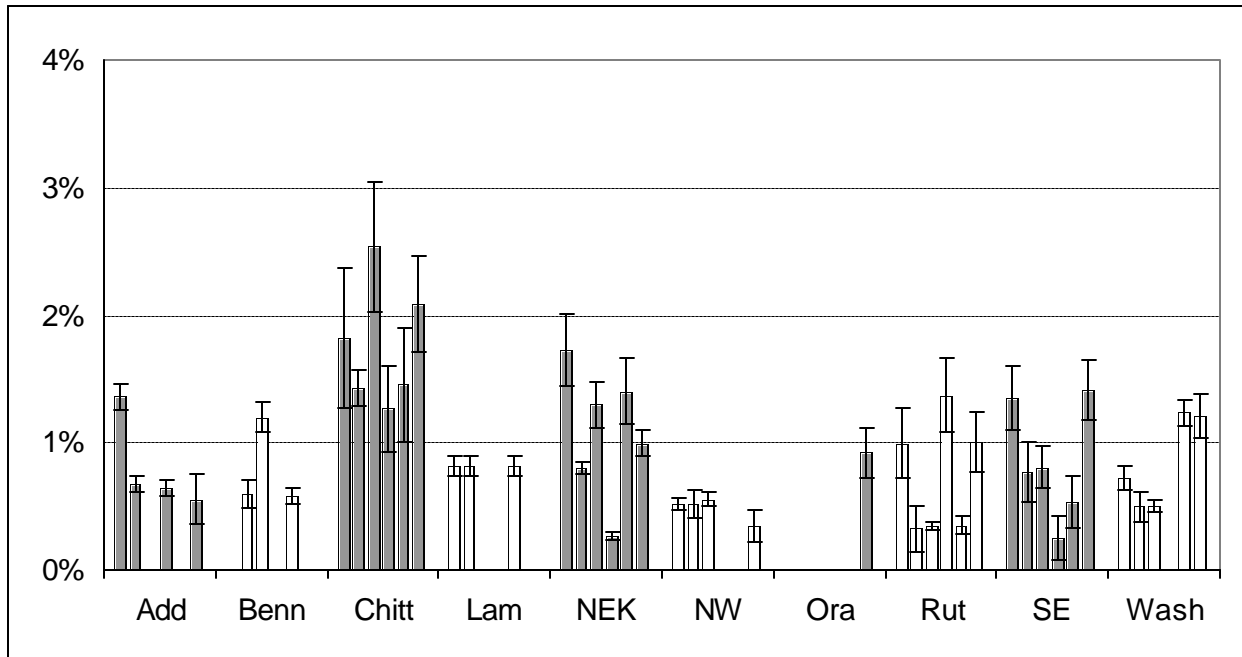
There was substantially less month-to-month variation on the total number of active CRT clients at the various providers, although there were substantial differences among providers in the size of the active caseload. Chittenden County had a substantially larger active caseload each month (557) than any other service area. Washington County had the second largest CRT caseload (401), followed closely by Southeast (356) and Northeast (342). The smallest active CRT caseloads were reported for Orange (108) and Lamoille (121) Counties.

We will be very interested in your thoughts about this analysis. Is a one-month period too short for purpose of evaluation, or is it important that measures be sensitive to variation in criminal justice involvement at this level. Is the rate at which people are charged with a crime a good measure of the amount of criminal justice involvement? As always we look forward to your comments and suggestions. Please give us a call (802-241-2638) or send an email (jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us).

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<sup>1</sup> Van Tosh, L. (Ed.) Consumer Managed Care Network Platform for Action. Washington, D.C.: Consumer Managed Care Network. 1996.

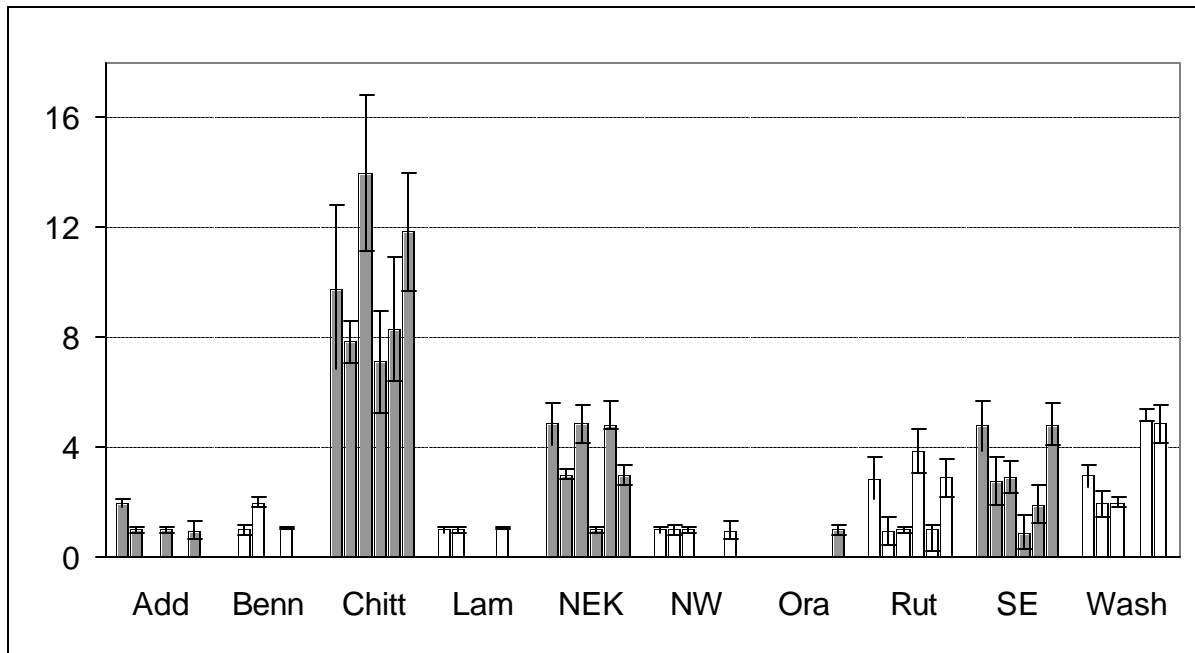
## PERCENTAGE OF CRT CLIENTS IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW: JANUARY - JUNE FY1999



Clinic		January	February	March	April	May	June	Monthly Average
Addison	Rate	1.4%	0.7%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.6%	0.5%
	95% CI	(1.3%-1.5%)	(0.6%-0.7%)		(0.6%-0.7%)		(0.4%-0.7%)	(0.5%-0.6%)
Bennington	Rate	0.0%	0.6%	1.2%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	0.4%
	95% CI		(0.5%-0.7%)	(1.1%-1.3%)		(0.5%-0.6%)		(0.3%-0.5%)
Chittenden	Rate	1.8%	1.4%	2.5%	1.3%	1.5%	2.1%	1.8%
	95% CI	(1.3%-2.4%)	(1.3%-1.6%)	(2.0%-3.0%)	(0.9%-1.6%)	(1.5%-1.9%)	(1.7%-2.5%)	(1.4%-2.2%)
Lamoille	Rate	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.4%
	95% CI	(0.7%-0.9%)	(0.7%-0.9%)			(0.7%-9%)		(0.4%-0.5%)
Northeast	Rate	1.7%	0.8%	1.3%	0.3%	1.4%	1.0%	1.1%
	95% CI	(1.4%-2.0%)	(0.7%-0.8%)	(1.1%-1.5%)	(0.2%-0.3%)	(1.1%-1.3%)	(0.8%-1.0%)	(0.9%-1.2%)
Northwest	Rate	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%
	95% CI	(0.5%-0.6%)	(0.4%-0.6%)	(0.5%-0.6%)			(0.2%-0.5%)	(0.3%-4%)
Orange	Rate	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%	0.2%
	95% CI						(0.7%-1.0%)	(0.1%-0.2%)
Rutland	Rate	1.0%	0.3%	0.3%	1.4%	0.3%	1.0%	0.7%
	95% CI	(0.7%-1.3%)	(01%-0.5%)	(0.3%-0.4%)	(1.1%-1.7%)	(0.3%-0.4%)	(0.8%-1.2%)	(0.6%-0.9%)
Southeast	Rate	1.3%	0.8%	0.8%	0.3%	0.5%	1.4%	0.9%
	95% CI	(1.1%-1.6%)	(0.5%-1.0%)	(0.6%-1.0%)	(0.1%-0.4%)	(0.3%-0.7%)	(1.2%-1.6%)	(0.6%-1.1%)
Washington	Rate	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	1.2%	1.2%	0.7%
	95% CI	(0.6%-0.8%)	(0.4%-0.6%)	(0.4%-0.6%)		(1.1%-1.3%)	(1.0%-1.4%)	(0.6%-0.8%)
Average	Rate	0.9%	0.6%	0.7%	0.4%	0.6%	0.9%	0.7%
	95% CI	(0.8%-1.1%)	(0.5%-0.8%)	(0.6%-0.8%)	(0.3%-).5%)	(0.5%-0.8%)	(0.7%-1.0%)	(0.6%-0.8%)

Based on probabilistic estimation of overlap between data on active CRT caseload (from DDMHS MSR Data Base) and all persons charged with a crime (from VCJR DCF Data Base). Active CRT caseload includes all people assigned to a CRT program who received at least one service from the program during the three months ending with the target month.

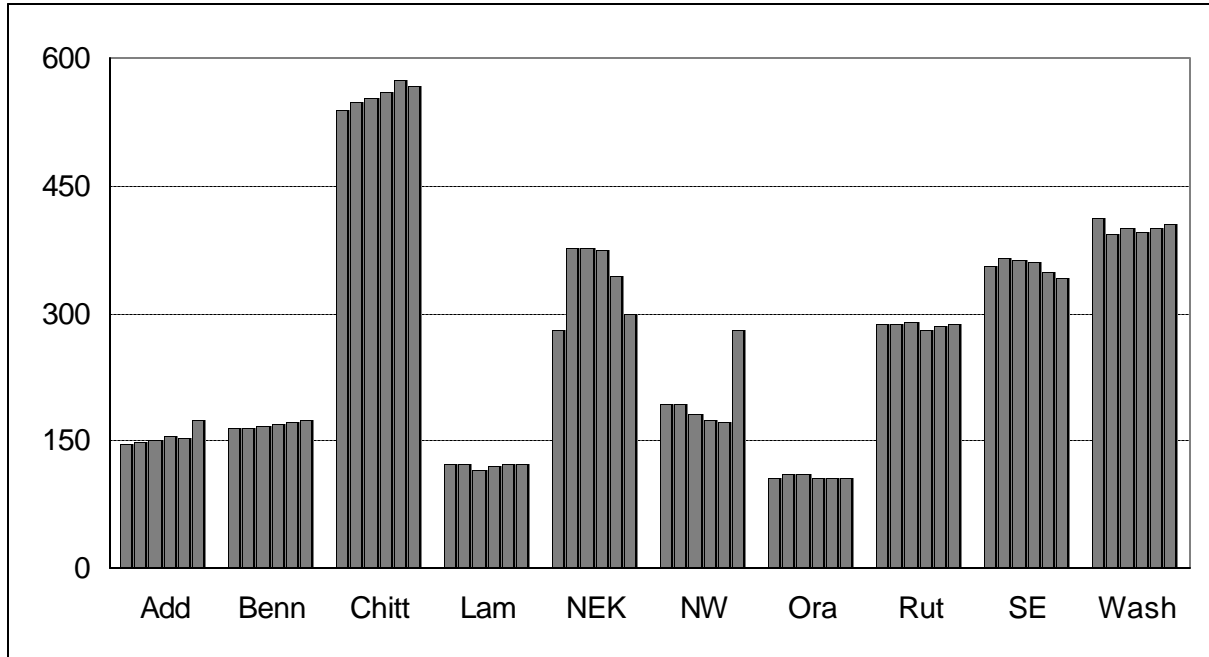
## NUMBER OF CRT CLIENTS IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW: JANUARY - JUNE FY1999



Clinic		January	February	March	April	May	June	Monthly Average
Addison	Number 95% CI	2.0 (1.9-2.2)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.0	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.0	1.0 (0.6-1.3)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)
Bennington	Number 95% CI	0.0	1.0 (0.8-1.2)	2.0	0.0	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.0	0.7 (0.6-0.7)
Chittenden	Number 95% CI	9.8 (6.9-12.8)	7.9 (7.1-8.6)	14.0 (11.2-16.9)	7.1 (5.2-9.0)	8.3 (5.7-10.9)	11.9 (9.7-14.0)	9.8 (7.6-12.0)
Lamoille	Number 95% CI	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.0	0.0	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.0	0.5 (0.4-0.6)
Northeast	Number 95% CI	4.9 (4.1-5.6)	3.0 (2.8-3.2)	4.9 (4.2-5.6)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	4.8 (3.9-5.7)	3.0 (2.6-3.3)	3.6 (3.1-4.1)
Northwest	Number 95% CI	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.8-1.2)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.0	0.0	1.0 (0.6-1.3)	0.7 (0.5-0.8)
Orange	Number 95% CI	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0 (0.8-1.2)	0.2 (0.1-0.2)
Rutland	Number 95% CI	2.9 (2.1-3.6)	0.9 (0.4-1.5)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	3.8 (3.0-4.6)	1.0 (0.8-1.2)	2.9 (2.2-3.6)	2.1 (1.6-2.6)
Southeast	Number 95% CI	4.8 (3.9-5.7)	2.8 (1.9-3.7)	2.9 (2.3-3.5)	0.9 (0.3-1.5)	1.9 (1.1-2.6)	4.8 (4.1-5.6)	3.0 (2.3-3.8)
Washington	Number 95% CI	3.0 (2.6-3.4)	2.0 (1.5-2.4)	2.0 (1.8-2.2)	0.0	5.0 (4.6-5.4)	4.9 (4.2-5.6)	2.8 (2.4-3.2)
Total	Number 95% CI	29.3 (23.1-35.5)	20.5 (17.1-23.9)	27.8 (23.1-32.5)	13.9 (10.4-17.4)	23.0 (17.9-28.0)	30.4 (24.8-35.9)	24.1 (19.4-28.9)

Based on probabilistic estimation of overlap between data on active CRT caseload (from DDMHS MSR Data Base) and all per- charged with a crime (from VCJR DCF Data Base). Active CRT caseload includes all people assigned to a CRT program who received at least one service from the program during the three months ending with the target month.

## ACTIVE CRT CASELOAD: JANUARY - JUNE FY1999



Clinic	January	February	March	April	May	June	Monthly Average
Addison	147	149	151	155	152	175	155
Bennington	164	164	166	169	172	174	168
Chittenden	540	549	553	560	573	568	557
Lamoille	123	123	115	119	123	123	121
Northeast	281	377	377	375	343	300	342
Northwest	193	193	181	174	172	280	199
Orange	105	110	110	107	106	107	108
Rutland	287	287	289	280	284	287	286
Southeast	356	364	363	360	349	342	356
Washington	412	393	399	396	401	405	401
Total	2,608	2,709	2,704	2,695	2,675	2,761	2,692

Based on Monthly Service Report Data provided to DDMHS by community providers. Active CRT caseload includes all people assigned to a CRT program who received at least one service from the program during the three months ending with the target month.